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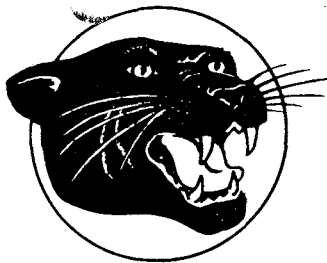
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Panther Sports News

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July 27, 1983

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL—Eastern Illinois University basketball player Tim Dykstra will pass up his senior season in order to play for the team handball squad in the 1984 Olympics.

Dykstra, from Plymouth, IN (LaVille HS), has been chosen to play for the 16-man U. S. handball squad and will report in September to the New Jersey training site.

The team will practice for a year including a tour of Europe playing the top handball teams on that continent in preparation for the 1984 Games in Los Angeles.

"Tim had a difficult decision to make but I have encouraged him to go with handball because it's a once in a lifetime opportunity," said EIU basketball coach Rick Samuels.

"Not only will he get the educational benefits of playing in different parts of the world but will have a unique chance to play in the Olympics. It's something every competitive athlete dreams of but not many get the chance."

Handball is a relatively unknown sport in the U. S. It's a combination of basketball, soccer and hockey played indoors.

Dykstra originally came in contact with the sport two years ago when a visiting Taiwan professor organized an EIU team which later toured Taiwan. Dykstra and fellow EIU basketball player Mark Turner were members of that squad.

A two-time Mid-Continent All-Academic choice, Dykstra has earned three letters for the Panthers. Last year he was the only player to start all 31 games averaging 9.7 points.

"Obviously we're going to miss someone of Tim's experience . . . especially since he's the only senior on the team. His competitive spirit will be difficult to replace but he's such a great person that he deserves this chance for the Olympics," said Samuels.